Drug Smuggling Cases detected at Airports

*394. SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what was the number of cases of drug smuggling detected at India's international airports during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from any foreign country in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (*SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI*): (a) The number of cases of drug smuggling detected at India's major international airports during the last three years is furnished below:—

Year	Number of cases detected
1982	39
1983	35
1984	75

(b) and (c) The Government have not received any representation as such from any foreign country regarding drug smuggling through our international airports. However, the situation in regard to the growing illicit transit traffic of narcotic drugs through our country has come up for discussion at various international meetings/fora.

India has, for some time past, been increasingly facing the problem of transit traffic in drugs. This is also evident from the recent report of the International Narcotics Control Board. In its report for the year 1984 the Board has, *inter alia*, observed that, "India is increasingly used as a transit country for opiates and cannabis destined for other regions of the world and New Delhi and Bombay are reportedly the most important exit points for these drugs".

The field formations remain vigilant to check smuggling including that of narcotics. Appropriate anti-smuggling measures are taken in co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government authorities. Close co-operation with the concerned international agencies is also maintained to curb smuggling of drugs.

Licences issued by RBI for opening branches by the Nationalised Banks

*395. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of licences issued by the Reserve Bank for opening of branches by the various nationalised banks in the country during 1984-85;

(b) what are the details thereof, bankwise and State-wise, during the above period; and

(c) whether any such licences were returned by certain banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that 2260 licences/authorisations were issued to the Public Sector Banks during the period 1984-85, State-wise and Bankwise details are given in the Annexure [*See* Appendix CXXXV, Annexure No. 52].

These banks were allowed to surrender licences in respect of 74 centres. Of these, 54 licences were surrendered in favour of the Regional Rural Banks and the remaining 20 licences were cancelled by Reserve Bank as the concerned banks had expressed difficulties in opening offices at the allotted centres due to non-availability of the minimum infrastructural facilities and business potential.